MARVEL
PG 28

EXILES™

AND THE UNCANNY X-MEN®

UNNATURAL INSTINCTS PART 1 OF 3

Oof.

It's a reasonable question, Illyana.

The mission was to kill the Avengers and let Japan be destroyed.

You were sent to get the Avengers. Who else *could have* killed them?

I don't know, maybe Moses Magnum. They were dead when I got there.

Plane crash, it looked like.

Sometimes a man's fate is written.

I'm not buying it! It was you!

How do you know it wasn't one of the others?!

I know the others, I don't know you!

All right, you two, I want a clean fight--

CHUD

You want to keep taking your feelings out on me because you lost your girlfriend, fine.

There's plenty more where *that* came from.

Is it possible for me to get a word in here?

It's good to see you all again.

Although I'm sure you may feel differently about seeing me.

Timebroker.

Then we're--

What are we doing here?

This next mission requires a bit of explanation and clarification.

Why don't you have a seat and make yourselves comfortable while I explain the details.

I want to make sure there is no confusion when this mission begins.

This is a difficult assignment, and when things start to happen, they will happen *fast*--

--so you will need to be on top of it right from the word "go."

This is Alex Summers-- or "Havok"-- brother to Scott Summers-- or "Cyclops"-- son of etceteras, you don't need to know.

Suffice to say, he is a mutant with *incredible* power--

--too *much* power for the Timebroker, because, you see, he was joined--

--*subspatially*--

--to every *other* Alex Summers in *every other existence*--

--and in fact at one point was referred to as the nexus of *ALL* realities.

He existed as an opening, or a "back door" for me, if you will.

A simple way for me to connect with one dimension and another, all subspatially, outside the physical realm, of course--

--and all without Alex's conscious knowledge.

Morph, stop that.

Sorry.

On some levels, each Alex was aware of his multiple existences--

--and in most realities, he at some point designed a headdress like this one--

--representative of the diverging and *converging* life-paths that are the essence of multi-dimensional actuality.

This unusual life became too much for him, however, and at times affected his personality, his memories, his powers--

--and this ***instability*** began to cause ripples in ***every*** dimensional realm, necessitating bringing ***you*** in to repair the damage.

Like many "back doors", Alex was now creating ***"bugs"*** in the system.

So we Timebrokers arranged to ***remove*** him from existence.

Havok is the cause of all this?

Of us being here and doing what we do?

Yes. At least partly.

His death in every existence was carefully planned and coordinated, and yet, as things often go--

--a few bodies still managed to--

--somehow--

--survive.

In one case, two consciousnesses survived and occupied conjoined space and began vying for a single body.

The struggle for this body is not yet over.

One personality is very, very good, and the other is very, ***very, very bad***--

--and unknown to those around them, these two are about to change places again when ***good*** Alex dies--

--and bad Alex comes in to kill the little boys you see behind me --

--along with many, ***many*** others.

Those boys ***must*** live, so you need to stop "bad" Alex--

--***any*** way you can.

XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR THE GIFTED

OUR TIME

OUR DIMENSION

TOUCHDOWN!

Jerry Rice in his prime got *nothin'* on me!

I touched you with *both* hands, Nicky.

The hell you did, Carter, now *shut up!*

Hey, you two, chill out--

Yeah, come on guys, take it down a notch. It's supposed to be a game.

Now, Nicholas, Carter *did* touch you--

You always take *his* side!

It's *not* fair!

I am fair, you just never like that "fair" means *you're* wrong--

I am fair, you just never like that "fair" means YOU'RE wrong!

SHRRRRIP

Holy *mother*--

EXIT

Annie!

Help, please!

It was beautiful, Paige.

Then we went to this little restaurant in the Felix Faure district called Bistro 21, and I thought it would just be a little joint, but--

I didn't mean to do it!

Wow, sometimes I forget how big you are, Cain.

Alex looks almost as small as Carter in--

Oh my God!

Oh my God, what happened?!

Oh lord, his organs are exposed!

CAIN, WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?!

It was an accident--

I've got to--

--I need a-- I need a doctor!

How many times do I have to tell Xavier he needs a doctor around this place?

MED 02

MED 01

Oh man, *what now?*

Everyone behind me!

Who the hell are you?
My God, is that Juggernaut?
What's happening with Havok?
How do you know Alex?
Long story.
God, that looks bad.
Please, let me past. I'm a doctor. I can help.
If you've got any blood in his type, I'd get some.
He's still unconscious.
The Tallus says the "bad" Havok hasn't arrived yet and we can still save him.
Ah, to be a *hero* again.
And not the sandwich.
Don't worry, we're here to help.
Are you really Juggernaut?
Who's askin'?
You're really Juggernaut.
Okay, the Tallus is giving us some... aw, Hell.
What?
What does it say?
"Made-- in-- Korea."
That explains a lot.
It says it's too late for Alex.
If Alex lives or dies, it doesn't matter either way--
--just keep the kids safe.

You ain't *touchin'* these kids.

What?

Fine, then *you* take them out of here and get them to safety. It doesn't matter to me, as long as someone gets them away from Havok

You have to believe us, there isn't much time

Isn't much time for WHAT? Havok would never hurt the kids!

What ARE you people goin' on about?

I can't stop the bleeding--

Anything you need. Just te[illegible] me

He can't d[illegible]e.

Look, we don't have time to argue with you.

Either YOU take them, or WE do, but one way or the other--

The sky is falling, the sky is falling!

SHUT UP!

CHANG!

What I really need is someone who can bring people back from the dead, 'cause there's not much I can do with this man.

MIMIC! We don't have time for this! Get the kids out!

He's about to flatline, and you know what that means!

What do you mean, you know what THAT means? I thought you were a doctor! Help him!

Who are you people?

NOCTURNE! MORPH!

Get those kids outta here!

CHANG!

Come on, little one. We need to get you gone

That's *my* son, so get your hands off!

I'm already husking, Annie

They're not taking Carter anywhere.

Something is wrong with Alex, Mom--

Listen to your son. We need to get him to safety, right now

Why?!

This man is becoming like a father to him, and--

Jnnh.

He WAS like a father to him!

Now he's someone else who's a tremendous danger to him --

--Mimic, I'm changing to Sasquatch and we're getting the boys out of here!

Alex?

Tell them everything is all right.

Out of all the *meat* available in this place he picks *you* as his woman?

The man is an *idiot*.

Alex?

And *you*, you little *brat*.

You're the one who took the other Alex and left *me* behind in that hellish limbo.

Mom?

CRACK

CHOOOM

CARTER!

Watch the roof!

Did Alex just try to kill Carter?

Move, Cain.

Get Annie and the kids out of here like the Sasquatch lady said!

Wake up, peop e!

THIS IS WHY WE'RE HERE!

WHUD

Sasquatch and I will take care of Havok!

RUN, DAMMIT!

Come on, let's go.

Where's Nicholas? The kid must have run off

Find Worthington, his mutant blood can help heal Carter!

Cain, is Carter okay? Tell me he's okay!

I can teleport, just tell me where

Goodness me.

You're a strong one, "Colossus."

I'm not

FWEEEEEEEEOOOM

AAAAAHH!!

But I am the power of the sun!!

God, it feels good to have a body again after a these years -

You mean it *felt* good.

Warren's at the Lobo Tech building with Iceman.

It's in White Plains.

I can find it.

CHOOM

Ooooh

That was a rush.

This man is my friend.

If he s dead I ll *kill* you.

See, now I need far less mot vation.

I'm going with you. I don t trust you with something this important

Suit yourself, Sunfire. Just stay out of my way

I'll kill you for any old reason at all.

KWHOOOM

GHEEH

BEESH

KEESH

Sounded like a bomb went off in there.

Cain, my son needs medical attention.

And from the looks of things back there, so does Mimic

--but our resident doctor is inside hammering that psycho, and someone's got to find this Nicholas kid before Havok does

Why?! What the hell is going on here?

It's complicated.

SO UNCOMPLICATE IT!

It's hard to explain, but basically your Alex has been taken over by another, evil consciousness.

We were warned this was going to happen, and-

You mean that's not really my Alex?

And, what-- you came to *save* the *real* Alex?

Jim, no, Wolverine.
We came to save the two boys he was going to kill, Carter here, and Nicholas Gleason
No.
Not my baby.
I just saw Gleason running into the woods
He's the little wolf kid, right?
Yeah, that's him.
CAIN!
You get Nightcrawler and teleport to a hospital with Carter and Annie--
--Paige and me, we'll find Nicholas.
Go with them, Morph.
Righty-HO, Nocturne!
I'll give your regards to Stanley Livingston, I presume?
Nightcrawler's here, too?
Yes, why?
Do you know him?

He's my father.

Maybe you should have shown Illyana and Sunfire more specifically where Worthington is.

I--

--I couldn't. He's gone somewhere that I, uh --

-- have a strong aversion to.

The kid's scent leads this way.

But, Sunfire's a friend of mine.

A really *good* friend and--

And Carter means a lot to *me*.

Someone *else* can get Warren.

Someone faster and more suited to being around that place than I am.

I'm sorry, I don't mean to be so cranky, it's just that I was almost killed there by a bunch of wolf-mutants, and--

--well, it just hasn't all left me, yet.

Hey, Nicholas.

What's happening?

Nicholas, my God. Are you alright?

It's all right, Nicky. It's me, Paige. We've come to take you back to Xavier's.

No one blames *you* for what happened to Alex. We'll figure out what happened together.

Hold on, hold on, hold on...

Where have you been?

We ain't alone here.

I was almost killed there by a bunch of wolf-mutants.

SNIFF SNIFF

Hold on, hold on, hold on.

We ain't alone here.

Hello again, Meat.

Um...

...Is this some kind of Haiku game?

LOBO TECH
WHITE PLAINS, NY

What is it you're looking for, Warren--

--and why is it taking so long to find it?

I've told you five times already, Bobby. I don't know what I'm looking for.

You didn't have to come, you know.

I could have done this alone.

Nah, I wanted to help.

I'm sorry, I don't mean to be so irritable--

It's all right. We're all getting used to it.

I think I may have found what I didn't know I was looking for, though.

From: Burt Worthington
To: Maximus Lobo
RE: GENETIC APPLICATIONS OF EXPERIMENT 29-D

My uncle's involved with Lobo.

He still seems to have a hand in my father's businesses, even from prison.

How can he do that?

He killed your parents and then he continues running things?

Hello? Is this thing on?

I'm looking for Warren Worthington, if anyone can hear me who knows him.

This is Warren.

Who is this?!

I just want you to know I'm going to kill them all. Especially your little girlfriend.

I can smell you on her. Is there any part of her you want me to save for you?

Don't you remember the voice of your old friend, Lobo?

LOBO? I'll kill you if you--

Warren Worthington?

Illyana?

Mariko?

What the hell's going on? Whatever you're here for will have to wait--

--I've got to go help the woman I love.

The woman you *what*?

Sorry, Worthington.

I hear that your blood can heal, and to finish this mission and get back home--

--I will take your blood back to Xavier's mansion--

--with or without the rest of your body.

TO BE CONTINUED...